

The Troy Stone

Mark Jackson is on holiday in Turkey. He visits the old city of Troy and finds a yellow stone. 'I know this stone,' he thinks. 'It comes from... from...' Suddenly Mark goes back in time. He can see a beautiful city, soldiers and a big wooden horse.

Penguin Readers are simplified texts which provide a step-by-step approach to the joys of reading for pleasure.

Series Editors: Andy Hopkins and Jocelyn Potter

Easystarts 200 headwords

Level 1	300 headwords	Beginner
Level 2	600 headwords	Elementary
Level 3	1200 headwords	Pre-Intermediate
Level 4	1700 headwords	Intermediate
Level 5	2300 headwords	Upper-Intermediate
Level 6	3000 headwords	Advanced

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British English

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EASYSTARTS


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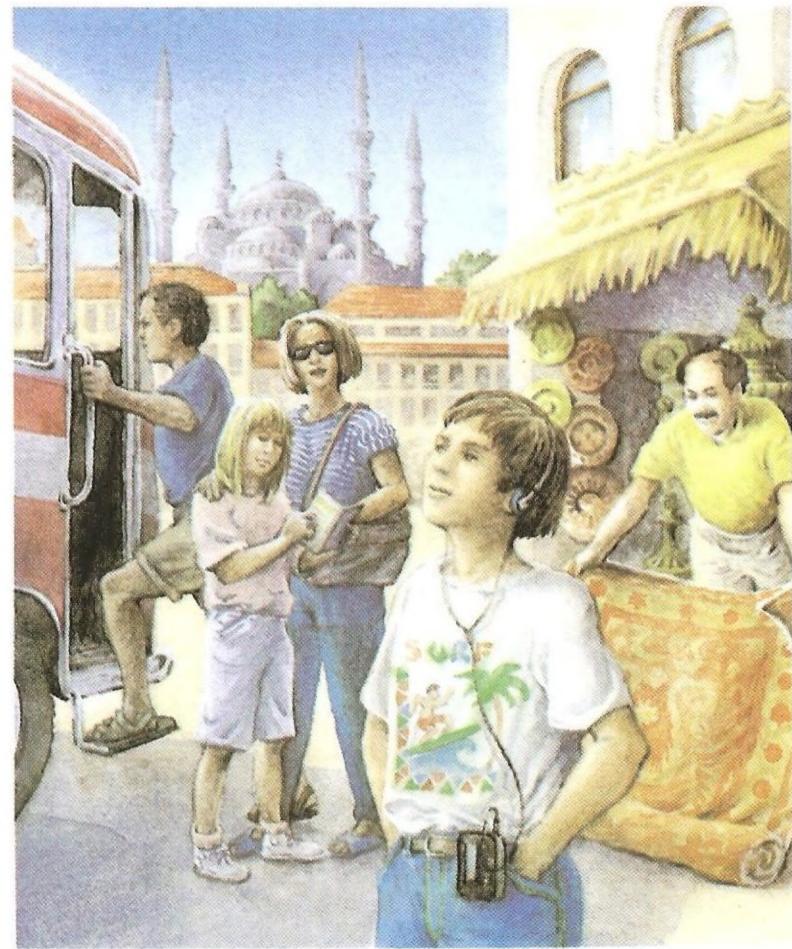


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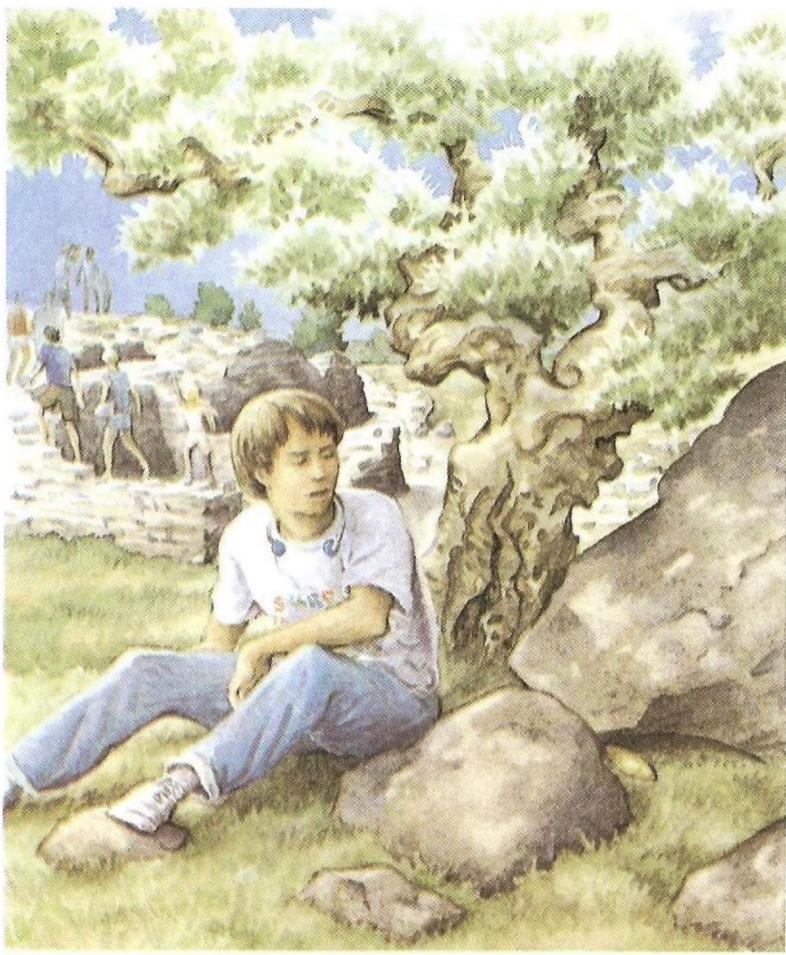
The Troy Stone

Stephen Rabley

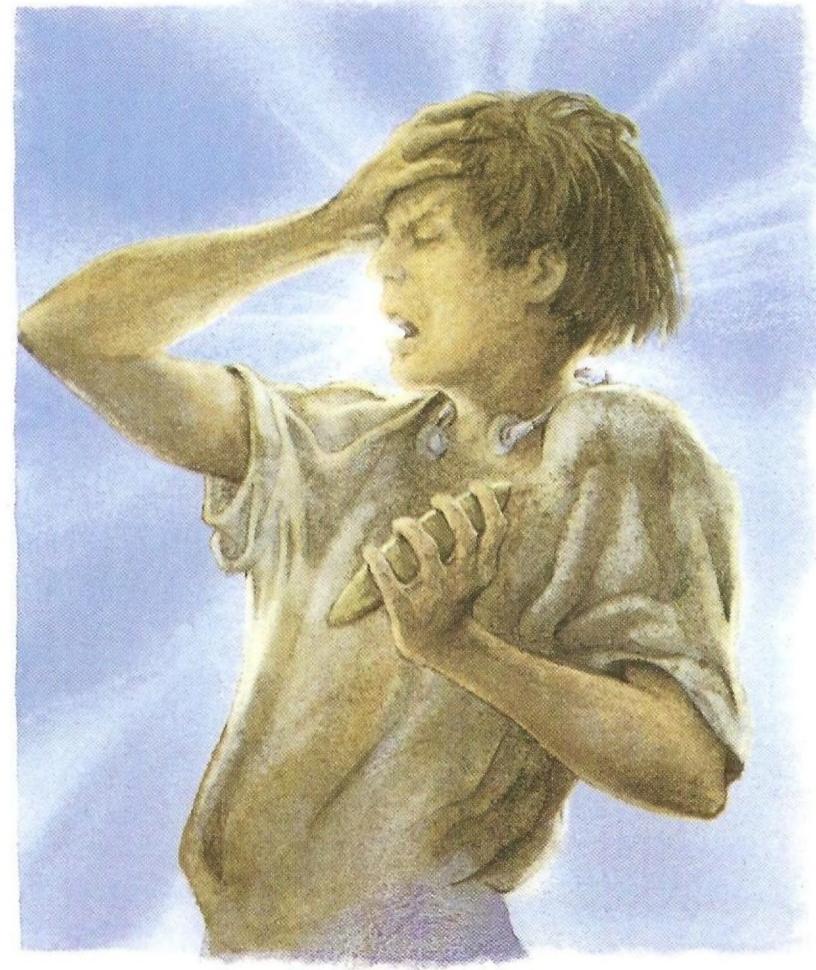




The Jackson family are on holiday in Turkey. They are staying at a big hotel in Istanbul. Mark (13), his sister Fay (12) and their parents like Turkey. It is beautiful, the weather is hot and the food is good. There is a lot to see, too. Today they are visiting the city of Troy. It is 9 o'clock in the morning. They are getting on a bus in front of their hotel.

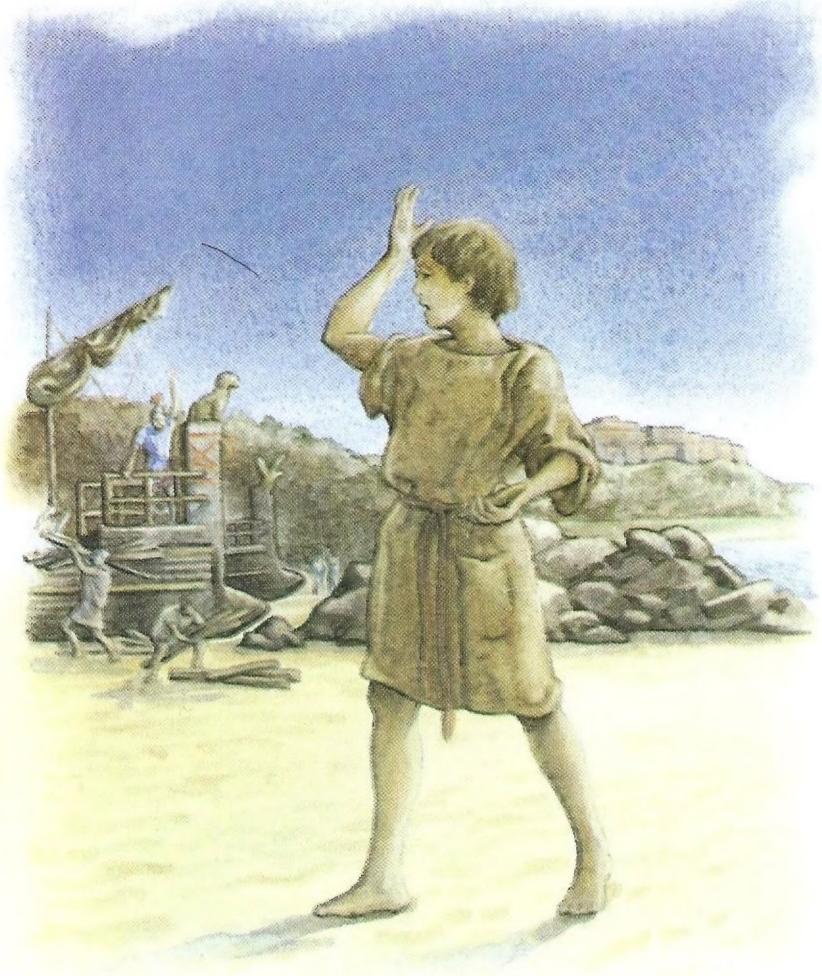


There are forty people on the bus. They come from Britain, America, France, Italy and Holland. At Troy they all have lunch. Then they start to look at the old city. It is a very hot day. After an hour, Mark sits under a tree. "I'm going to stop here for a moment," he tells Fay. "OK," she answers. Then Mark sees something on the ground. "What's that?" he thinks.

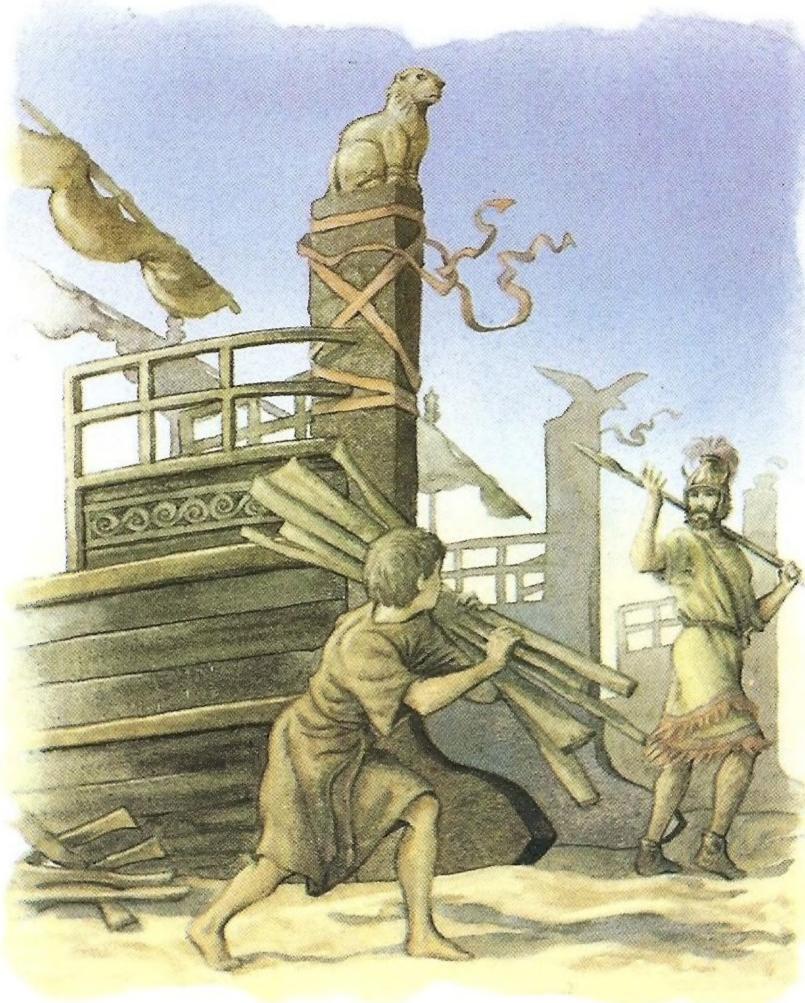


It is a flat, yellow stone. Mark picks it up. Then he starts to clean it with his hands. "But I know this stone," he thinks.

"It comes from . . . from . . ." Suddenly there is a white light in his eyes. Mark closes them. The light is strong. Now there is a loud wind in his ears. He cannot hear or see anything. "What's happening?" he thinks.



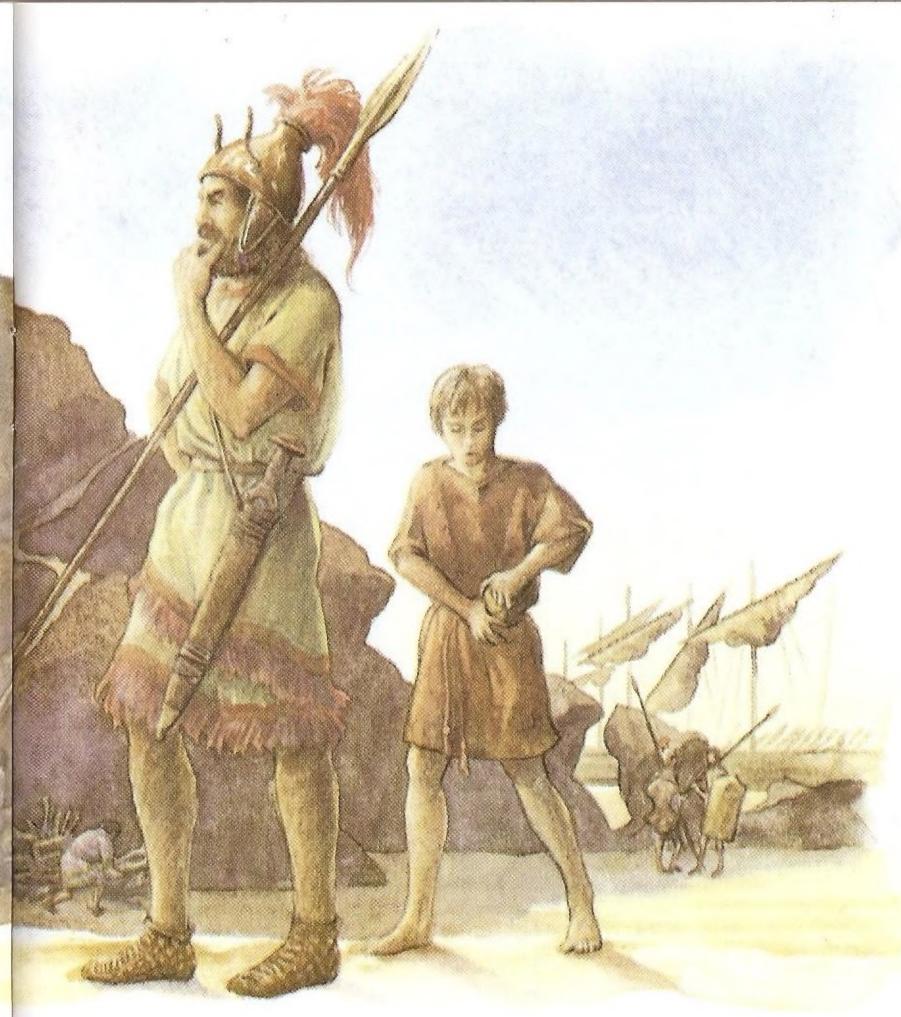
Ten seconds later the light and the wind stop. Mark opens his eyes. He is standing on a beach. He can see hundreds of ships and men. Behind him there is a beautiful city with high walls. "Where am I?" he thinks. "Where's my family?" He puts the yellow stone in his pocket. Then one of the men says to him, "Boy! Come here!"



"Me?" Mark walks across the beach to a long, black ship. "Carry this," the man says. He gives Mark a lot of wood. Then he gets off the ship. "Follow me," he says. Mark follows him. The man is very tall and has a short, brown beard. "I don't know your face," he says. "Are you new here?" "Y-yes," Mark answers. "That's right. I'm new here."



"My name is Andros," says the man. He and Mark walk for another ten minutes. Then they climb a small hill. At the top Mark stops. There, in front of them, is a big wooden horse. Andros sees Mark's face and smiles. "Well . . . what do you think of it?" he asks. Mark does not answer, and Andros says, "This horse is going to win the war for us Greeks."



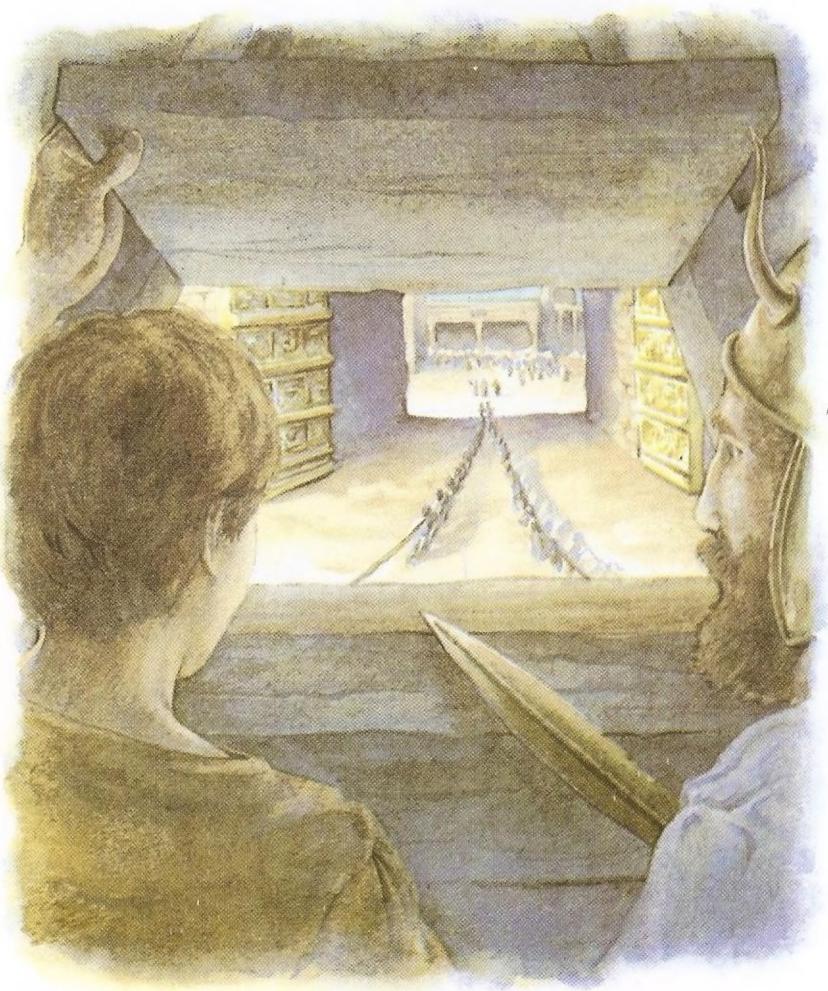
They walk down the hill. There are a lot of men working under the horse. One of them talks to Andros. "There's a problem," he says. "We can't find a stone for the second eye. We *must* find one before tomorrow." Mark looks at the horse's one bright eye. Then he remembers the stone in his pocket. "Wait!" he says. "I think I can help you."



He takes the stone out of his pocket. "But how...?!" says Andros. The man smiles. "That's it. That's *it*!" He looks at Mark. "What's your name, boy?" Mark tells him. "He's new here," says Andros. "Ah!" The man is very happy. "Well... we must thank him. *I* know. You can come with us in the horse tomorrow night." Mark's mouth opens. "Me?!"



That evening Mark sits near a big fire on the beach. There is an old woman beside him. Her name is Ana and she is a cook. She tells Mark lots of stories. Stories about Greece, the war, and the beautiful princess – Helen. In the end she goes to bed. "Goodbye, boy," she says. "Come and see me again one day. Come and see me again."



Next morning the horse is ready. Greek soldiers pull it to the gates of Troy. Then they leave it there.

Inside the horse there are forty Greeks. They wait all afternoon under the hot, yellow sun. Mark is sitting in the horse's head. "What happens now?" he thinks.

Suddenly the gates open. Trojan soldiers walk out. They pull the horse inside and shut the gates again.



Mark can hear the Trojans. "Why are the Greeks giving us this horse?" asks one. "Do you think they want to end the war?" "Yes! Look!" says a soldier on top of the city walls. "Their ships are leaving!" After that the Trojans eat, sing and dance all evening. Then they go to bed very late and Troy is quiet.

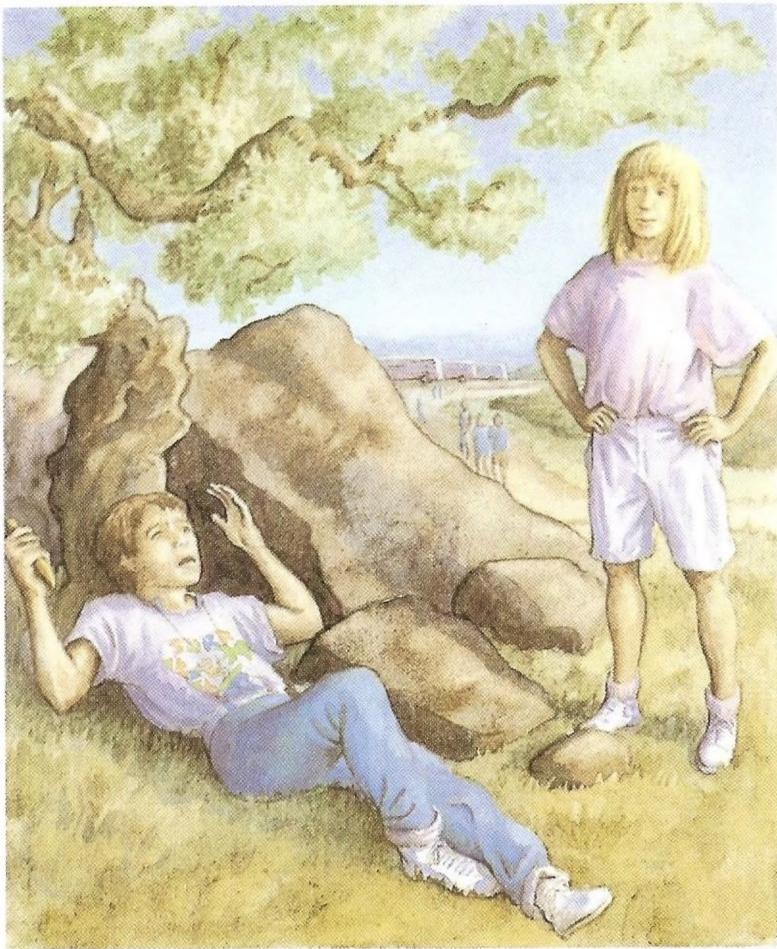
At that moment the Greeks climb out of the horse.



Four men go to the gates and open them. A minute later there are thousands of Greek soldiers in the city. They and their ships are *back!* They run from one building to another. In five minutes Troy is on fire. Mark watches all this. Suddenly he sees a beautiful woman. She is running along the city walls. "It's Helen," he thinks, "Helen of Troy!"

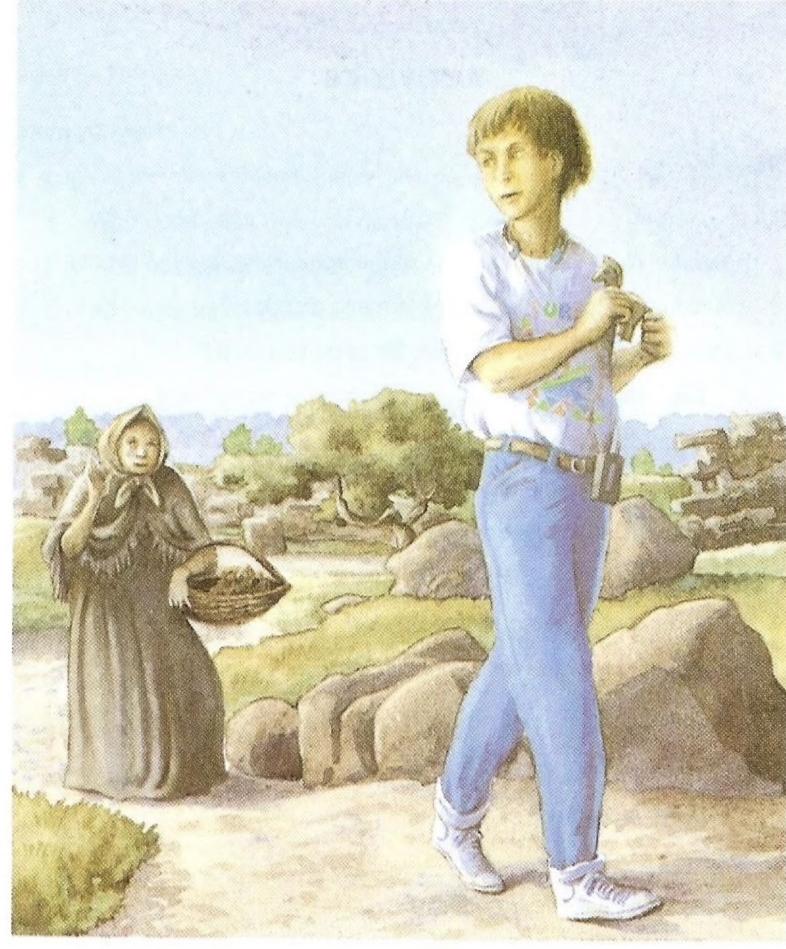


At that moment Andros says, "Follow me, boy." He runs down a small street very fast. Mark follows, but the street is full of smoke. After a minute he cannot see anything. "Andros!" he says. "Where are you?" Then suddenly two Trojans with swords come out of the smoke. Mark looks at them. "Please don't kill me," he says. "Don't kill me! Please!"



"Mark! Mark! It's 4 o'clock. The bus is leaving in a minute." Fay is looking down at Mark.

After a moment he suddenly wakes up. "What?" he asks. "The bus is leaving," Fay says again. Then she asks, "Are you OK? Your face is white. And what's that dirty stone?" Mark looks at the yellow stone in his hand. "This? Oh . . . it's nothing," he says.



Mark stands up. He sees an old woman. She has lots of small wooden horses in a basket. "Do you want one, boy?" she asks. "Yes. Why not?" Mark buys a horse and looks at the woman. "No. It can't be," he thinks. He walks to the bus. Behind him the old woman smiles. "Goodbye, boy," she says. "Come and see me again one day. Come and see me again."

ACTIVITIES

Pages 1–7

Before you read

- 1 Read the Word List at the back of the book. What are the twenty words in your language? Find them in a dictionary.
- 2 Look at the pictures in the book. What do you think?
 - a On page 1 is Mark Jackson at school or on holiday?
 - b What does he see on page 2?
 - c Where is he on page 4?
 - d There is a big wooden animal on page 6. What is it?
- 3 What do you know about Turkey?
 - a Is it near Greece or America?
 - b Do you know the names of two big Turkish cities?

While you read

- 4 Finish the sentences.
 - a Mark Jackson is years old.
 - b Troy is a very city.
 - c At Troy, Mark sees a flat, yellow
 - d Suddenly, he is on a near an old ship.
 - e Behind him there is a beautiful
 - f "I don't know your", Andros says.
 - g The wooden horse has only one
 - h Mark remembers the stone in his

After you read

- 5 Where is this beach, and who are the men on the beach? What do you think?

Pages 8–15

Before you read

- 6 Look at the pictures and answer the questions.
 - a Who does Mark meet on page 9?
 - b Where is he on page 10?
 - c What are the Greek soldiers doing on page 11?

While you read

- 7 Are the sentences right (✓) or wrong (✗)?
 - a Mark's stone makes one of the wooden horse's eyes.
 - b Ana is an old woman.
 - c She says, "Come and see me again tomorrow."
 - d Greek soldiers pull the wooden horse into Troy.
 - e At night the Greeks come out of the wooden horse.
 - f Mark doesn't see Helen of Troy.
 - g Mark wakes up and sees his mother.
 - h Mark buys a wooden horse from the old woman.

After you read

- 8 Talk to a friend and answer the questions.
 - a On page 15, Mark says, "No. It can't be." What question is he answering?
 - b Is the woman Ana or not? What do you think?
- 9 Look at the pictures in the book again. What is Mark thinking? Write a sentence for ten of the pictures.
- 10 It is lunch time at Troy. Mark's sister, Fay, is writing to a friend about her holiday in Turkey. Write her letter.

Answers for the Activities in this book are available from the Penguin Readers website. A free Activity Worksheet is also available from the website. Activity Worksheets are part of the Penguin Teacher Support Programme, which also includes Progress Tests and Graded Reader Guidelines. For more information, please visit: www.penguinreaders.com.